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USIA Is Urged To Call U.S.S.R. 'Soviet Empire'

Charles Z. Wick, the irrepressible director of the U.S. Information Agency, was discussing high strategy the other day with his No. 2 man, Leslie Lenkowsky, and the former head of French intelligence, Count Alexandre de Marenches.

It was a most solemn session, duly chronicled in a 17-page transcript intended for official eyes only.

Putting first things first, de Marenches brought up the Soviet Union. It should not be called the Soviet Union, he said. He told Wick the USIA "should always say the Soviet Empire." Then the problem came up of what to call Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Ustinov.

"I don't like the word 'defense' when you are talking about the Russians . . .," said de Marenches.

"Minister of war?" Wick asked.

"I was going to say that he would be called the 'minister of war, minister of global aggression,'" the count suggested. "That is what he really is." Speaking of "war," he reminded the USIA policy makers that their agency is responsible for the "war of ideas."

Declared de Marenches: "I would

say that we haven't lost the war of ideas We haven't even fought it Now, what this kind of warfare tells us [is] don't worry too much about hitting the body, go in through the eyes and the ears"

But the best place to hit the Poles, he said, was in the stomach. The USIA should bear down on Poland's food problems, he said.

"Lack of food should be associated with communist ideas . . .," de Marenches urged. "I think simple things like this, Charles, are absolutely of paramount importance. And if we don't do this, why do the rest? . . . This is absolutely, I think, vital Do you agree?"

Lenkowsky quickly agreed. "I think you are absolutely right," he said.

Wick later made a comment which can only be classified as mystifying. "I think you can without bilaterals be provocative . . .," he said.

De Marenches got back to nomenclature. The Voice of America's name should be changed, he said. "I am not sure I would call it the Voice of America."

"Too late now," interjected an unidentified voice.

Undeterred, the count suggested that the VOA be renamed the "Voice of Liberty."

Lenkowsky had something to say about the nature of the Soviet adversary: "I had a friend who said whenever you want to evaluate Rus-

sian behavior, you need not only a chess expert but a magician, a functional paranoid, et cetera."

Despite the perplexity and perversity of the Soviet Union, despite his dissatisfaction with U.S. nomenclature, de Marenches said he saw a light on the horizon.

"One day," he said, "they will be Russia again."

Unidentified voice: "You mean, the historical Russia."

De Marenches: "The power will break."

Voice: "We have got to liberate those people. Let's."

Three-Mile Coverup: The five-member Nuclear Regulatory Commission is trying to decide whether to allow the undamaged reactor at Three Mile Island back on line. Questions of "management integrity" have sharpened since the facility's owner, General Public Utilities, was indicted last fall on charges of falsifying safety data.

NRC Commissioner James Asselstine directed the agency's general counsel to draw up a list of the integrity questions involved, and then make the list public. But Chairman Nunzio Palladino quickly vetoed release of the list. He even refused to give Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) a copy.

Asselstine turned over the list to Specter and is trying to persuade fellow commissioners to back public release of the document.